

REMARKS

Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) is being filed concurrently herewith. Entry of the IDS is respectfully requested.

Status of claims

Claims 1-18, 22-33, 35-39, 51 and 59-69 remain in this application. Claims 1, 28 and 51 are currently being amended. Claims 19-21, 34, 40-50, 52-58 and 70-80 have been withdrawn.

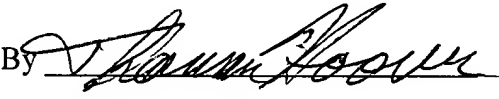
The claims have been amended to recite a sterile barrier that can be extended over the handle which is removeably attached to the probe or waveguide with a connector. The cited references fail to disclose or suggest such a combination.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone call would expedite the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (508) 416-2475.

Respectfully submitted,

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